



By the King.

• A Proclamation touching the Counterfeit Great Seale, Ordered by the two pretended Houses of Parliament to be put in use.



Whereas by the Lawes and Statutes of this Kingdom, the Counterfeiting of Our Great Seale of England is high Treason, and is so particularly and expressly declared by the Statute made in the five and twentieth year of the Reign of Our Royall Predecessor, King Edward the Third, which Statute and Declaration was then obtained and assented to upon the Petition, and at the instance of the Lords and Commons in that Parliament, for the safety and security of themselves and their Posterity, in regard of the different opinions before that time touching Treason, and what should be said to be Treason and what not: and hath since by other severall Acts of Parliament been ratified and approved to be kept and observed as the Rule and direction for deciding and determining of Treason. And whereas of late a new Great Seale, without Warrant or Authority from Us, and against Our Will or Consent, hath been traitterously made, and Counterfeited to the similitude and likeness of Our Great Seale of England, and by the two pretended Houses of Parliament (or by Persons styling themselves by the name of the Lords and Commons in Parliament) hath been used, and by the same means, Warre, and Rebellion against Us, and much blood spilt upon our Subjects, to the ruine and destruction of this Kingdom and Nation: the same is Ordered to be put in use, and that Order published in a printed Paper, intitled, A Declaration and Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, touching the Great Seale; Wherein it is likewise declared by them, That all Letters Patents, Grants, Leases, Pardons, and other Acts and things therein mentioned, which have passed under Our Great Seale, since the time that the same was brought unto Us, shall be invalid, void, and of no effect: and that al and every act or thing, which after the publication of that Ordinance, shall passe by, or under Our Great Seale, or under any Great Seale (other then what is therein appointed) should be utterly void, frustrate, and of no effect, usurping therein to themselves, and, as much as in them lies, depriving Us of the means of dispensation of Our Justice, Power, Grace, and Mercy, and of what else is in Us to give or conferre, which are Our principall, known and undoubted Rights inherent and belonging onely to Our Crown and Regally Office. We have therefore thought fit to publish this Our Proclamation, thereby to let all Our Subjects know the deep sense we have of this high indignity offered to Us, and the danger which they shall incurre by acting, passing, claiming, or obeying any thing which shall passe by, or under that new and Counterfeit Seale, or by colour of the pretended and usurped authority thereof. And We do hereby Charge and Command all pretended Commissioners, and others of the said Counterfeit new Great Seale; That they, or any of them, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, shall not presume to take any Letters Patents, Pardons, Commissions, Faculties, Writs, or any other Instruments or things whatsoever, with the said new Counterfeit Great Seale. And We do hereby further strictly Charge and Command all Arch Bishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Chancellors, Commissaries, and Officials; and all Judges, Justices, Justices of Peace, and Commissioners of what kinde soever, and all Sheriffs, Barons, Officers and Ministers, and all Our Subjects in generall, of what degree, quality, place, office, or function soever they be, that they presume not in any sort, either directly, or indirectly, mediately or immediately, to exercise any Jurisdiction, Power or Authority, Judicall or Ministeriall, Ecclesiasticall or Temporall, or to act, passe, claime, do, or execute any act, matter, or thing whatsoever, by, or under, that new and Counterfeit Great Seale, or by colour or pretence of any interest, power, or authority derived from thence, or in any wise to give obedience or allowance thereunto, or to any Writs, Commissions, Letters Patents, Grants, Presentations, Leases, Pardons, Faculties, or any other Act or thing whatsoever, which shall passe by, or under the same. And We do likewise Charge and Command all Curriers, Clerks, Officers, and Ministers, and all Our Subjects whatsoever, That they in no sort presume to write, make, frame, fit, prepare, or present any Writs, Commissions, Letters Patents, Grants, Presentations, Leases, Pardons, Faculties, or any other Instrument, act, writing, or thing whatsoever, to passe under the said Counterfeit Seale, or any way to put the same in use. And We Require a ready and exact obedience from all Our Subjects to this Our just Command, in a matter so highly concerning Our Sovereignty, letting them know, that whatsoever shall be done to the contrary, will be invalid, and void in it self, and for doing the contrary, they must expect to undergo the highest and severest penalties, forfeitures, and punishments, which by the Lawes and Statutes of the Kingdom may be imposed or inflicted upon them.

Given at Our Court at Oxford, the 24. day of November, in the Nineteenth year of Our Reign 1543.

God save the King.

Imprinted at Bristol by Robert Barker, and
John Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent
Majestie, 1543.